

**Delaware Council on Faith-Based Partnerships  
Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration**

*Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.*

*First & Central Presbyterian Church*



PRELUDE

PROCESSION

WELCOME AND WORDS OF GRATITUDE FOR GOVERNOR MARKELL

Douglas Gerds, Chair

MUSIC

*Al Shlosa D'Varim*

Allan E. Naplan

Wilmington Children's Chorus Young Men's Ensemble

*Translation: The world is sustained by three things: by truth, by justice, and by peace*

REMARKS

Hinduism

Pramod "Paul" Mathur

The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribe

Chief Dennis Coker

Roman Catholicism

Monsignor John Hopkins

PRAYER

One: Let us all respond:

**All: I send prayers of gratitude to all that has given of itself this day:**

**The strong beans, and the hardy grains,  
the beautiful leafy green plants,  
and the sweet juicy fruits...**

**I thank the sun that warmed and vitalized them, just as it does me,  
and the earth that held and nourished them, as it does me,  
and the waters that bathed and nourished them, as they do for me.**

**I thank the fire that transformed them,  
just as I wish to be transformed by the fires of spirit.**

**I thank the hands that grew and prepared all these,  
just as I thank all those that have touched me in so many ways.**

*(Sedonia Cahill, The Ceremonial Circle)*

# SONG

THE LIFE OF THE NATIONS

## O Beautiful for Spacious Skies 338



1 O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, for am-ber waves of grain,  
2 O beau-ti-ful for he-roes proved in lib-er-at-ing strife,  
3 O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream that sees be-yond the years

for pur-ple moun-tain maj-es-ties a-bove the fruit-ed plain!  
who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer-cy more than life!  
thine al-a-bas-ter cit-ies gleam, un-dimmed by hu-man tears!

A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed his grace on thee,  
A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God mend thine ev-ery flaw;  
A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! May God thy gold re-fine

and crown thy good with \*broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea!  
con-firm thy soul in self-con-trol, thy lib-er-ty in law!  
till all suc-cess be no-ble-ness and ev-ery gain di-vine!

\*Or "servanthood"

This text (inspired by the vista from Pike's Peak and by a visit to Chicago's Columbian World Exposition) and tune (named MATERNA because it was composed for "O Mother, Dear Jerusalem") were joined in 1912. The combination proved immensely popular during World War I and afterwards.

TEXT: Katharine Lee Bates, 1893, alt.  
MUSIC: Samuel Augustus Ward, 1882

MATERNA  
CMD

### REMARKS

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Islam  
Baha'i

Flora McConkie  
Usman Sandhu  
Shirley Ganao and Nell Loder

PRAYER

One: Let us all respond:

All: **O Compassionate Creator,  
you who brought forth the universe with love and light and power,  
we are sorely in need of rebirth.  
Have mercy on your people and forgive us our wanton ways;  
let us not make of Earth a wasteland.  
May the beauty and majesty of your handiwork stand forever,  
that every generation to come will live with wonder,  
that they may enjoy the fruits of this, your gift of life.**

*(Nan C. Merrill, Meditations and Mandalas)*

OFFERTORY

*This evening's offering benefits the Food Bank of Delaware*

REMARKS

Buddhism

John Sykes

Judaism

Rabbi Michael Beales

Unitarian Universalism

The Rev. Paula Maiorano

PRAYER

One: Let us join in a closing prayer:

All: **Source of timelessness and time,  
We thank you for time  
and for those things that are yet possible and precious in it....  
(this day, all is praise and thanks for all our days)....  
We praise you, Glorious One,  
For what has been, and is, and will ever be:  
galaxy upon galaxy...earth and air...sea and shore...root and branch, male and female,  
creature upon creature in a thousand ingenious ways....**

One: Thank you for justice which repairs the devastations of poverty;  
for liberty which extends to the captives of violence;  
for healing which binds up the broken-bodied and broken-hearted;  
for bread for all the hungry of the earth;  
and for peace for all to sit under fig trees and not be afraid....

All: **We praise you, Glorious One,  
for this color-splashed, memory-haunted, hope-filled  
justice-seeking, love-grown country and the labors that birthed it,  
the dreams that nurtured it, the riches that sometimes misguide it,  
the sacrifices that await it, the destiny that summons it,  
to become a blessing to the whole human family.**

One: And let us all say:

All: **AMEN!**

*(Ted Loder, Guerrillas of Grace)*

MUSIC

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*  
Wilmington Children's Chorus Young Men's Ensemble

arr. John Brimhall

DISMISSAL

***All are warmly invited to a reception in the DuVal Room,  
located through the door to the left of the pulpit and to the end of the hallway.***

**MUSICIANS FOR TONIGHT'S SERVICE:**

David Schelat, Minister of Music, First & Central Presbyterian Church  
The Wilmington Children's Young Men's Ensemble, Philip Doucette, Conductor

**ABOUT THE WILMINGTON CHILDREN'S CHORUS:**

The Wilmington Children's Chorus name has become synonymous with excellence: excellence in singing, excellence in performance, and excellence in education. A multi-cultural children's choir sponsored in part by the City of Wilmington as a project of Cityfest, Inc., WCC gives our youth the opportunity and tools to excel while enriching our community with the unique sound and spirit of children's voices. Led by Kimberly Doucette, Artistic Director, and Philip Doucette, Associate Director, WCC involves over 300 singers in five performing ensembles and three Neighborhood Choirs in collaboration with OperaDelaware. For the past fourteen years, WCC has provided this high-quality educational program for youth without the burden of tuition or membership fees. For more information, visit [www.WilmingtonChildrensChorus.org](http://www.WilmingtonChildrensChorus.org)

**Overview of the Delaware Council on Faith-Based Partnerships**

- Created by Gov. Markell's Executive Order in January 2012
- Ten founding members appointed who held their first meeting in June 2012. Officers were elected and by-laws created.
- Meetings typically held monthly, at various houses of worship and State agencies.
- Council members serve as volunteers.
- The Council operates without state funding.

**Areas of Focus to Date**

1. Emergency Preparedness and Response
2. After School and Summer Programs for Youth
3. Foster Care and Transitioning for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
4. Incarceration, Re-Entry and Recidivism

**Duties and Functions of the Council**

- Develop partnerships between faith-based groups and executive branch agencies;
- promote volunteerism and community service;
- provide forum for exchange of ideas on improving delivery and efficiency of services;
- sponsor events and activities that promote interfaith understanding;
- encourage innovation and share best practices.

***For more information, please contact Doug Gerds, at 302-654-5371, ext. 106, or  
[doug@firstandcentral.org](mailto:doug@firstandcentral.org).***